

SAFETY MATTERS

JULY/AUGUST 2020

ADM BRIDGE DECK REPLACEMENT

Teamwork between RLI and GEM eliminates fall hazards

ADM, Toledo - RLG associates are removing and replacing about 4,500 square feet of concrete bridge deck, and replacing and repairing deteriorated structural steel at the ADM grain elevator on Miami Street.

"The team has worked well together to identify and resolve potential areas of concern that were exposed once the deck was removed."

Dan Diekman, group manager, Special Accounts.

RLI demolished and replaced the concrete. GEM replaced and repaired structural steel. An immediate hazard: When guardrails were removed for deck

demo, associates were exposed to falls from five to 25 feet.

To keep the team safe, a temporary guardrail system was installed and will be removed before final curbs are poured. Lifts and scaffold picks also were used to eliminate fall hazards. Project completion is scheduled for Labor Day.

"The team has worked well together to identify and resolve potential areas of concern that were exposed once the deck was removed," says Dan Diekman, group manager, Special Accounts.

"Maintaining safety on the project was a team effort with GEM installing the temporary handrail posts for RLI, and also some additional angle that increased the speed of the formwork," he adds.



The ADM concrete bridge deck under construction

RLG'S PROJECT FALCON TEAM EARNS SAFETY PRAISE

'The associates on this project have done an excellent job ensuring safety'

NSG/Project Falcon, Luckey - On this fast-moving design/build project, RLG trades must adapt quickly - and safely - to changes in tasks and conditions.

The project is particularly challenging from a safety standpoint because project priorities and manpower needs can shift rapidly, says **Kip Reiher, RLG's onsite safety representative.**

"The associates on this project have done an excellent job ensuring safety. Safety is planned into each job they have on this project," he says.

"We closely coordinate with our associates to ensure the task is

understood and that any hazards are addressed prior to starting a new job. Due to their level of expertise, they very rarely need any guidance," he adds.

"The level of safety knowledge that [RLG] associates have far surpasses their peers in other companies."

- Kip Reiher, RLG onsite safety representative

Reiher's background includes a wide variety of safety experience in military aviation, construction, general industry and environmental.

He also served as an OSHA compliance officer for years.

"From my past experience, Rudolph Libbe has one of the best safety programs in the construction industry. The level of safety knowledge that associates have far surpasses their peers in other companies," Reiher says.

"Rudolph Libbe Group has created an excellent safety culture and it shows," he adds. "Some of the other contractors have commented on how they would like to have a safety program like Rudolph Libbe Group."



**RUDOLPH LIBBE INC
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FIND IT-FIX IT

Associates eliminate hazards from trips-and-slips to equipment issues to improper use of PPE

Find It-Fix It gets people talking about safety and finding solutions - one of our program's greatest strengths.

Here are some recent submissions from GEM and RLI associates:

Unsafe behavior: A worker was using a grinder without a faceshield, handle or guard.

Solution: An associate stopped him and told him to get appropriate PPE.

Unsafe condition: The guard on a Metabo was thin and starting to split open.

Solution: An associate red-tagged the Metabo and took it out of service.

Unsafe condition: There was an open

hole on the floor over the stairway.

Solution: An associate closed the gap with plywood, secured and marked the area with "hole."

Unsafe behavior: A subcontractor got into a lift and forgot to tie off.

Solution: An associate stopped him and reminded him to tie off.

Unsafe behavior: People were talking and not paying attention to nearby equipment traffic.

Solution: An associate stopped them and moved them to the side of the road, completely out of the way of traffic.

Unsafe behavior: Another contractor's employee had his face mask down below

his nose.

Solution: An associate asked him to pull up the mask properly over his nose to stop the spread of covid

Unsafe condition: Some wire mesh in a concrete pour was loose and sticking up.

Solution: An associate cut some of the mesh so it would lie down flat, eliminating the trip hazard.

BEATING THE HEAT AT PROJECT ARISTOTLE

Thorough planning and teamwork keep associates safe

Project Aristotle/North Star Bluescope

- On the melt shop project, temperatures can soar as high as 130 degrees Fahrenheit. The job is a safety success story that shows the strength of RLG's safety culture.

Planning safety into the project, teamwork and personal commitment have protected GEM pipefitters and scaffold-builders from heat-related issues.

"We have daily safety talks about dehydration. The guys are taking their time and not overstressing their bodies. ... They're watching out for each other."

- Josh Griffin, GEM pipefitter superintendent

The pipefitters are welding hangers and installing pipe in the highest elevation of the working steel mill.

"They're up high in the building, and all the heat rises," says Josh Griffin, GEM pipefitter superintendent.

Before the project began, the team

planned for the extreme heat by:

- Constructing cooling shacks at the top of scaffold towers, equipped with air conditioning units and 100-quart coolers with bottled ice water.
- Equipping the area with thermometers to gauge heat throughout the day.
- Using fans to move the air around - but first hiring a subcontractor to vacuum the lime dust out.
- Timing the work so the team will be out of the area when ladles of molten steel are dumped into vats - which raises the temperature of the work environment.
- Cutting out sections of siding on the melt shop's west side to allow heat to escape and cooler outside air to be pulled into the building.

Ice vests are available and the team takes scheduled heat breaks.

"We have daily safety talks about dehydration," Griffin says. "The guys are taking their time and not overstressing their bodies. They understand that what they can accomplish on the ground at 90 degrees, they can't accomplish in the air at 130. They're watching out for each other."

STAY HYDRATED

Staying hydrated is essential, regardless of the weather.

- Drink at least eight glasses of water a day.
- Start drinking plenty of water before work starts.
- Drink water throughout the day — don't wait until you're thirsty.
- Working hard and sweating? Drink extra water.
- Avoid caffeinated drinks (coffee, tea, energy drinks and pop).

The color of urine can indicate dehydration. Urine should be pale yellow.

If urine is bright or dark yellow, orange or brownish, it can mean you're not drinking enough water.

Other symptoms of dehydration include:

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Weakness
- Fatigue
- Loss of balance
- Muscle cramps

If you notice any of these symptoms, especially combined with dark urine:

- Stop working and get out of the sun.
- Loosen your clothes.
- Sit down and rest.
- Take sips of water.

If your symptoms don't go away or worsen, seek medical help immediately.